Environmental Scan

Erinn Aspinall, MSI
Project Manager, Statewide Clinical Licensing Project
Health Sciences Libraries

Bio-Medical Library
Diehl Hall - 505 Essex Street SE
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0334

Submitted: February 3, 2008
Abstract

Introduction

The University of Minnesota Health Sciences Libraries are initiating a Statewide Clinical Resource Licensing Project that will explore the feasibility of providing online access to a core set of clinical knowledge resources (evidence-based practice guidelines, journal articles and other decision support tools) to all Minnesota health professionals, and potentially, to all residents of Minnesota.

Purpose

This environmental scan is being performed to 1) provide an external analysis of selected projects with similar scope and 2) compare the key findings and lessons learned from the external analysis against the project's vision and mission. The action of comparing/contrasting external and internal analyses will help formulate strategic directions and best practices for the Statewide Clinical Resource Licensing Project.

Methods

An external analysis of selected projects was completed by reviewing project websites and completing a literature review. A total of 9 projects were reviewed to gather information that is directly relevant to the Statewide Clinical Resource Licensing Project.

Once the projects were identified, information was organized into four main areas, reflecting the four main phases of the Clinical Resource Licensing Project. The areas are 1) population served/eligibility, 2) available information resources, 3) technology and access restrictions, and 4) funding models. An additional column was added to capture information that was deemed useful as it related to the implementation and continued sustainability of existing projects.

The literature review was conducted by searching library (LISTA, LLIS) and medical databases (PubMed), as well as grey literature (Google Scholar) on keywords related to selected projects. The selected articles were scanned to find additional information to supplement the information found on the project websites.

Findings

Many models exist for providing clinical health information on a statewide basis. In fact, any statewide or health sciences library consortium could fall into this category and could serve as a model. This environmental scan reviews projects that are directly relevant to the Statewide Clinical Resource Licensing Project. A total of 9 projects were selected. These include 2 local health related consortia, 4 statewide health consortia, and 3 statewide general consortia (Appendix A). The findings of the environmental scan are provided below:
Population Served

- The majority of statewide consortiums (health-related and general) serve individuals through their affiliate institution, with one institution taking a leadership role.
- One project (GaIN) serves individuals through their affiliate institution and allows individual access to resources through an individual membership fee.
- One project (HEAL) serves “specified licensed health care professionals” regardless of their affiliation by working through the state licensing boards.

Information Resources

- With one exception (Prepaid Article Service), consortiums provide a combination of books, full-text e-journals, and databases.
- Health-related consortiums typically provide medical, nursing, and psychology related resources.
- Health-related consortiums show a strong trend towards evidence-based resources.

Technology/Access

- Typically, libraries play a role in providing access and serving as gatekeeper.
- On-site access in generally maintained by IP range.
- Off-site access may or may not be available, depending on the capabilities of the affiliate library.

Funding Models

- Most projects rely on a combination of revenue streams including membership fees, grants, and government funding.
- Projects administered by academic health sciences libraries (AZHIN, GaIN) receive their main revenue from institutional membership. These projects often use soft money to cover start-up costs or to supplement membership dues.
  - One project (HEAL) covers costs through an earmarked fee that has been added to professional licensure.
  - One project (Prepaid Articles Service) has licensed selected full-text journal resources on behalf of member organizations, allowing for access at no charge.
- A mixed-model approach is used for government-funded projects. These projects typically receive the bulk of their funding from the state, but also rely on minimal institutional membership dues to supplement costs.
  - The Statewide, General projects that serve a broad range of higher education institutions (OhioLINK, TexShare, VIVA) receive their funding from the Department of Education.
  - One project (e-HLbc) has a health-related focus and is funded by the equivalent of a Department of Health.
Best Practices/Implications

A comparison of the external findings from the environmental scan with the vision and mission of Minnesota’s Statewide Clinical Resource Licensing Project has led to the identification of the following best practices and implications, which should be used to drive the project’s strategic directions:

Population Served

Best Practices
- All of the projects reviewed restrict access to a defined set of health professionals/users, and often require that individuals belong to a member institution to benefit from services.

Implication(s)
- The standard model of access based on institutional affiliation does not support the project’s mission to serve all health professionals in Minnesota.
- Minnesota’s ‘equal access’ model could be a selling point when approaching the legislature, and working with vendors to license resources as a ‘pilot’ approach.

Information Resources

Best Practices
- Licensed resources are typically evidence-based.
- Licensed resources support a broad range of health care providers including clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, and mental health providers, among others.

Implication(s)
- Selected resources should support evidence-based practice.
- Specific resources should be selected with input from stakeholders.

Technology/Access

Best Practices
- Access is typically granted through a combination of IP access through affiliate institutions and individual access for remote authentication, when available.

Implication(s)
- Access based on affiliation would significantly limit the project’s ability to meet its vision of providing information to all Minnesota health professionals, and potentially, to all residents of Minnesota.
- Using ELM’s statewide access based on IP ranges would remove the dependency on affiliated institutions, thereby expanding access to all health professionals and meeting the project’s vision.

Funding Models

Best Practices
- Projects are typically funded using a mixed-model approach, with revenue coming from membership fees, grants, and government funding.
- Projects that use a non-profit corporate structure to support their work (e.g. AZHIN), do not typically receive recurring funds from the state, but rely on membership dues as the main source of income.
- Projects that are developed from the top-down (i.e. those developed out of a government mandate) typically receive recurring funds from the state, and supplement funding through membership dues or other means.
- For health-related projects, there is precedent for recurring funds to come from a Department of Health and from state licensing boards.

Implication(s)
- Minnesota’s project would benefit from legislative support (top-down), as this approach tends to provide a level of sustainability not available to projects that are developed from the bottom-up.
- Varying methods of recurring funds should be explored with stakeholders to see which model(s) might be best received by the legislature.
## Appendix A. Environmental Scan of Selected Consortiums.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name/URL</th>
<th>Population Served/ Eligibility</th>
<th>Information Resources</th>
<th>Technology/Access</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Additional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prepaid Articles Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Medical College of Wisconsin&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.mcw.edu/display/router.asp?docid=11742">http://www.mcw.edu/display/router.asp?docid=11742</a></td>
<td>Serves the Medical College of Wisconsin, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, and Froedtert Hospital.</td>
<td>Articles&lt;br&gt;Selected Elsevier/ScienceDirect and Wiley journals.&lt;br&gt;See website for full listing.</td>
<td>Upon request, the library forwards electronic article from selected journal titles (ILL).&lt;br&gt;Online request form available.</td>
<td>Funded by Medical College of Wisconsin library.</td>
<td>Services: will obtain articles from other journals for a fee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library Consortium of Health Institutions in Buffalo (LCHIB)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://hubnet.buffalo.edu/">http://hubnet.buffalo.edu/</a></td>
<td>Serves individuals affiliated with hospital and health sciences libraries and information centers at member institutions, as well as other health related organizations throughout Western New York.</td>
<td>Journals, Books, and Databases.&lt;br&gt;Primarily OVID resources. Heavy EBM selection.&lt;br&gt;See website for full listing.</td>
<td>IP address (on-campus).&lt;br&gt;Individual authentication system for remote access.</td>
<td>Funded by institutional membership.</td>
<td>Corporate Model: 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.&lt;br&gt;Governing Body: voting is weighted/determined by an institution's annual fee amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AZHIN</strong>&lt;br&gt;University of Arizona Health Sciences Library&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.azhin.org/">http://www.azhin.org/</a></td>
<td>Serves the Arizona Health Sciences Library, the major teaching hospitals in Arizona, The University of Arizona College of Medicine and the Arizona Area Health Education Centers.&lt;br&gt;Future plans to serve all hospitals, clinics, health sciences libraries, health sciences educational institutions and individual practitioners in Arizona.</td>
<td>Journals, Books, and Databases.&lt;br&gt;Heavy EBM selection.&lt;br&gt;See website for listing</td>
<td>Access controlled through partner institution.&lt;br&gt;Uses Athens authentication system</td>
<td>Funded by institutional membership.&lt;br&gt;Tiered funding model based on FTE.</td>
<td>Governing Body: Board of Directors; Committees.&lt;br&gt;Staff: paid staff: 1 part time clerical/admin, 1 consultant, 1 accountant and legal counsel as needed.&lt;br&gt;Corporate Model: 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation.&lt;br&gt;Funding: start-up costs covered by soft money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GaIN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mercer Medical Library&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://gainweb.mercer.edu/">http://gainweb.mercer.edu/</a></td>
<td>Serves health care institutions and individuals in Georgia, including over 70 institutional members, representing hospitals, clinics, and public health departments.</td>
<td>Journals, Books, and Databases.&lt;br&gt;Includes nursing, medicine (MD Consult, STAT!Ref).&lt;br&gt;See website for listing</td>
<td>IP address (on-campus).&lt;br&gt;Off campus access availability dependent upon affiliate library.</td>
<td>Funded by institutional or individual memberships ($300/yr).&lt;br&gt;Institutional memberships based on type and size of institution.</td>
<td>Corporate Model: non-profit.&lt;br&gt;Funding: start-up costs covered by soft money.&lt;br&gt;Services: document delivery, CE, usage statistics, and reference assistance, some at an additional cost.&lt;br&gt;Partners: state AHECs and Georgia’s Rural Health Information Clearinghouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAL-WA</td>
<td>UW Health Sciences Library</td>
<td>Serves specified licensed healthcare professionals in Washington state.</td>
<td>Not Yet Available.</td>
<td>Goal of providing EBM resources to specified licensed health care professionals in state.</td>
<td>Plan to offer a variety of online evidence-based health information that will include selected full-text journals, databases and ebooks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAL-WA</td>
<td>UW Health Sciences Library</td>
<td>Serves specified licensed healthcare professionals in Washington state.</td>
<td>Not Yet Available.</td>
<td>Goal of providing EBM resources to specified licensed health care professionals in state.</td>
<td>Plan to offer a variety of online evidence-based health information that will include selected full-text journals, databases and ebooks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OhioLINK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ohiolink.edu/">http://www.ohiolink.edu/</a></td>
<td>Serves 16 public/research universities, 23 community/technical colleges, 47 private colleges and the State Library of Ohio.</td>
<td>Journals, Books, and Databases.</td>
<td>General health databases only.</td>
<td>See website for listing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **TexShare**<br>http://www.texshare.edu | - Serves 701 members including four year academic and medical libraries, independent academic institutions and community colleges, public libraries, and libraries of clinical medicine.<br>- Future plans to include K-12 public school libraries.<br>- Journals, Books, and Databases.<br>- Includes 8 health databases.<br>- IP address (on-campus).<br>- Individual authentication system for remote access.<br>- Start-up costs funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.<br>- Funded by state ($4 mill/yr), federal ($2 mill/yr), and institutional membership ($1 mill/yr).<br>- Governing Body: Part of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. |}

| **Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)** | - Serves 39 state-assisted colleges and universities 32 of the independent institutions, and the Library of Virginia.<br>- Journals, Books, and Databases.<br>- See website for listing.<br>- IP address (on-campus).<br>- Off campus access availability dependent upon affiliate library.<br>- Funded by the state (VA General Assembly $10.4 mill/yr), institutional memberships, and grants.<br>- Governing Body: committees |
Providing Minnesotans with the right information at the right time in the right place to improve health.

Bibliography


Haddix, A. AZHIN: A Not-for-Profit Corporation for the Public Good. 


Landesman, M. ATG Interviews Tom Sanville, Executive Director, OhioLINK. Against the Grain v. 18 no. 4 (September 2006) p. 56, 58-9


